

## **ECONOMIC GROWTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

**THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2018 AT 10.00AM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Nedved (Chairman), Betton (from 10:32am), Mrs Birks, Bloxham (as substitute for Councillor Mitchelson), Christian, Coleman, Crawford, and McDonald.

**OFFICERS:** Deputy Chief Executive  
Investment and Policy Manager  
Policy and Communications Manager  
Policy and Performance Officer

### **EGSP.39/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mitchelson and the Corporate Director of Economic Development.

### **EGSP.40/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted.

### **EGSP.41/18 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was agreed that the items of business in Part A be dealt with in public and Part B be dealt with in private.

### **EGSP.42/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A Member sought information on progress regarding Riverside Housing Association's request for a Deed of Variation to its Stock Transfer Agreement with the Council.

The Investment and Policy Manager explained that a formal request for the Deed of Variation had been received by the Council, and that the authority had identified a number of options for its relationship with the housing association. A report on the matter would be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

Responding to a question from the Chairman regarding developments in relation to the proposed Liaison Group, the Investment and Policy Manager indicated that such detail would be set out in the report.

**RESOLVED –** 1) To note that Council, on 24 April 2018, received and adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2018 and 1 March 2018. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2018 be agreed.

### **EGSP.43/18 CALL IN OF DECISIONS**

There were no items which had been the subject of call-in.

### **EGSP.44/18 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME**

The Policy and Communications Manager presented report OS.16/18 which provided an overview of matters relating to the work of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel.

The Policy and Communications Manager reported that the most recent Notice of Executive Key Decisions, copies of which had been circulated to all Members, had been published on 25 May 2018. There were no items included within the Panel's remit.

The report included a table of the progress on resolutions from previous meetings, all of which had been incorporated into the Panel's Work Programme 2018/19. The Policy and Communications Manager drew the panel's attention to section 4 of the report which detailed updates for the Panel to note. The Panel discussed and supported the draft Special Scrutiny Panel Protocol.

Suggested items for the Panel's 2018/19 Work Programme had been attached as appendix 1 to the report for the Panel's consideration. The Policy and Communications Manager had circulated copies of the Panel's remit, as set out in the Council's Constitution, he encouraged Members to view the full arc of the Panel's scope and consider items which may not have been scrutinised for some time.

The Chairman advised the Panel that the purpose of considering the suggested items was to develop a programme of work for the Panel for the coming year, he noted that the significant areas of scrutiny for the Panel would be: the Borderlands Growth Deal; St. Cuthbert's Garden Village; Future Flood Risk Management and, emerging Council strategy documents. He invited the Deputy Chief Executive to provide an overview of additional emerging priorities.

The Deputy Chief Executive responded that Carlisle Plan 2015 – 18 which set out the Council's priorities was due to be completed in the year, following which the Executive conduct a review before identifying a way forward. The Deputy Chief Executive did not anticipate significant changes to the high level aspirations of the authority.

The Panel discussed the suggested items for the Work Programme 2018/19 and agreed the following:

*Borderlands Growth Deal:*

The Investment and Policy Manager explained that a Borderlands Conference was scheduled to take place on 18 June. He indicated that a report was able to be submitted to the July 2018 meeting of the Panel providing feedback from the Conference along with a revised overview of the project.

A Member commented that updates were helpful in keeping the Panel abreast of project developments, in addition he considered it important that the Panel were able to input into the Business Plan.

Agreed: That a report be submitted to the July 2018 meeting of the Panel setting out the revised overview of the project, following the Borderland Conference on 18 June 2018.

*Regeneration Strategy:*

The Investment and Policy Manager advised that development of the Strategy was ongoing, and confirmed that a report on the Strategy was able to be presented to the July 2018 meeting of the Panel. He suggested that the report would cover; the vision and aims of the strategy; possible sites and timescales for the process of approving the Strategy.

Agreed: That a report on the Regeneration Strategy be submitted to the July 2018 meeting of the Panel.

### *St. Cuthberts Garden Village:*

The Investment and Policy Manager detailed the work undertaken, and the forthcoming activities in terms of public engagement with respect to the project. The Panel noted the involvement of Councillors in the project through the Members Advisory Group, and the Investment and Policy Manager outlined the work that the Group had been involved in and the work it was to undertake.

In response to a question about the proposed Southern Relief Road, the Investment and Policy Manager advised that a decision on the preferred route was expected in June 2018.

The Chairman requested that an update from the Members' Advisory Group and overall project progress be presented to the July meeting of the Panel.

### *Highways Issues*

A number of Members expressed interest in the Panel looking at highways issues as they considered it to be an important factor in the economic growth and development of the District.

The Deputy Chief Executive cautioned Members that the Council did not have direct responsibility for highways matters which resided with Cumbria County Council as the Highway Authority. The Council's policy in relation to transport matters was set in policy IP 2 – Transport and Development of the Carlisle District Local Plan 2015 – 30. He suggested that the policy may help guide the Panel's work in relation to areas such as cycling/walking infrastructure, and that Panel consider holding a workshop to scope areas of potential work in relation to highways.

The Chairman requested that the Policy and Communications Manager scope how to incorporate scrutiny of highways in the Panel's Work Programme.

Agreed: That the Policy and Communications Manager scope how to incorporate the scrutiny of highways into the Panel's Work Programme.

### *Section 106 Monitoring Report*

In response to Member requests, the Investment and Policy Manager agreed to include information regarding the monies required by Cumbria County Council, and an update on the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Investment and Policy Manager undertook to include those items in the report.

### *Housing Strategy*

In response to Member requests the Investment and Policy Manager agreed to cover the following topics in the report:

- Empty homes – monitoring and figures;
- Where future occupiers of the new houses were to come from;
- Economic demand;
- Breakdown of the number of socially rented and discount sale affordable homes in the district;
- An update on the impact of low cost home developers e.g. Gleeson Homes.

### *City Centre Vitality*

The Chairman noted that the subject was a possible area for Task and Finish Group work, he invited the Investment and Policy Manager's thoughts on how the Panel was best able to add value to the topic.

The Investment and Policy Manager explained that his team were taking on two interns over the summer period who would be carrying out an update of the retail survey with a view to establishing a baseline health check to provide an objective view of the current situation. He suggested that the Panel may benefit from a workshop both on the scope and subsequently on the results of the work and its value as an evidence base upon which to consider how best the Panel could engage with the issue.

Agreed: That the Investment and Policy Manager liaise with the Policy and Communications Manager regarding the setting up of a workshop for the Panel to consider the outcomes of an updated retail survey and health check.

### *Enterprise Zone*

The Chairman indicated a desire for the Panel to continue to receive updates on the matter

### *Economic Strategy*

The Chairman asked when the draft strategy would be available for the Panel to scrutinise.

The Investment and Policy Manager advised that Officers were looking to timetable the internal approval of the draft strategy.

The Chairman noted that the Tourism Strategy was to be contained within the Economic Strategy, he sought clarification as to whether the Tourism Action Plan would also be part of that strategy or if it was intended to be a stand-alone document.

The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Tourism Action Plan would be part of the Tourism Strategy, he noted that the Action Plan was delivered by the Community Services Team, and the new post of Destination Manager would be a key Officer in its delivery.

The Chairman requested that a report on the Tourism Action Plan be presented to the Panel's October 2018 meeting.

### *Education and Skills*

The Chairman considered the topic to be a very interesting and important area of work for the Panel.

The Deputy Chief Executive outlined the changes which had taken place at the Local Enterprise Partnership, which meant at the current time it was not clear how its Skills Plan was to be implemented.

The Chairman agreed that consideration as to the best way forward was important, he undertook to liaise with Officers on the matter with a view to the Panel considering the issue in 2019.

### *City Centre Public Realm (Phase 2)*

The Panel discussed the installation of new signage at the edge of the city, the Deputy Chief Executive noted that the discussion were ongoing with Cumbria County Council on the matter, he undertook to provide the Panel with an update on the progress of those discussions. The Chairman requested that a report on City Centre Public Realm (Phase 2) be submitted to the October 2018 meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Overview Report and Work Programme (OS.16/18) be noted.

- 2) That the Investment and Policy Manager liaise with the Policy and Communications Manager regarding the setting up of a workshop for the Panel to consider the outcomes of the updated retail survey.
- 3) That a report on the Tourism Action Plan be submitted to the Panel's October 2018 meeting.
- 4) That the Chairman liaise with Officers to identify the most appropriate method for the Panel to incorporate the scrutiny of Education and Skills into its Work Programme.
- 5) That a report on City Centre Public Realm (Phase 2) be submitted to the October 2018 meeting of the Panel.
- 6) That the Policy and Communications Manager scope how to incorporate the scrutiny of Highways into the Panel's Work Programme.
- 7) That the Deputy Chief Executive circulate to Members of the Panel an update on discussions with Cumbria County Council regarding the installation of signage at the edge of the city.
- 8) That the items listed in Appendix 1, as discussed above be added to the Panel's Work Programme.

#### **EGSP.45/18      END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18**

The Policy and Performance Officer submitted the 2017/18 performance against the current Service Standards and a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2015-18 actions as defined in the 'plan on a page'. Performance against the Panel's 2017/18 Key Performance Indicators were also included.

The Policy and Performance Officer detailed the summary of exceptions as set out in section 1 of the report drew the Panel's attention to the Service Standards which fell within the Panel's remit and appended to the report.

The Chairman noted that Service Standard 08 – Proportion of Local Authority Searches completed on time remained below target, he sought assurance that measures to improve the service had been implemented.

The Policy and Performance Officer confirmed that measures to address the performance against the Service Standard had been implemented, as outlined during the Panel's discussion of the third quarter performance report, he noted that improvements in the service were occurring.

With reference to ED08 in the Performance Dashboard, the Chairman noted that two Tree Preservation Orders had not been confirmed within the specified time period.

The Policy and Performance Officer explained that the two Orders which were not confirmed during the specified time period had been complex applications which had received a number of objections that had required negotiations to resolve.

**RESOLVED** – That the End of Year Performance Report 2017/18 be noted (PC.07/18).

(The meeting ended at 11:54am)